California Garden

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MARCH, 1920 TEN CENTS

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The Spring Flower Show

It is expected that the Spring Show will be one of the largest exhibitions which the Floral Association has ever attempted. The date, to be set definitely later, will be during the last week in April.

Trophies will be offered as prizes for meritorious exhibits, and it should be emphasized that exhibits from small gardens are especially invited.

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The California Garden

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HOME PLANNING AND PLANTING

The New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University publishes, in one of its reading courses, an excellent bulletin on landscaping the home grounds. Among other very practical suggestions, it enumerates what it terms "Seven Keys to Attractiveness." The keys seem to us to be worthy of comment.

Key No. 1. "The place must be well clothed or furnished, with trees and shrubbery," expresses our idea of one of the essential points of difference between a house and a home. The most beautifully designed house, built of the very best material, looks bare, desolate, and incomplete without some planting thereabouts.

Key No. 2. "The house should be prominent, and should have a good setting". The word prominent is probably to be interpreted to mean that the house should be given an appropriate place in the scheme of things—but of course not an unduly conspicuous one. We recall a certain house which is located in a comparatively low portion of the property, and it presents a somewhat apologetic appearance, whereas the same house placed on a slight rise of ground which is less than twenty feet from its present site would give it a dignity which it does not now possess.

Key No. 3. "There must be an open space of lawn or sward." We realize that this is much easier of accomplishment in New York than it is in California, but such a space of lawn is well worth while if one is willing to expend the effort necessary.

Key No. 4. "The trees and the smaller plants should be massed or grouped at the sides rather than scattered all over the place". It is a common error among amateur gardeners either to plant in too regular rows, or to plant too many single specimens of too many kinds. Often—too oft— we see an otherwise perfectly good space of lawn the effect which has been ruined by the planting of a single tree or shrub "right plump" in the center. The effect of this is to make a small space look absurdly smaller.

Key No. 5. "There must be no unnecessary fences, walks or drives." This rule of ethics is violated more times than we care to contemplate. Fences should have an obvious reason for being and walks or drives should go somewhere.

Key No. 6. "There must be no curiosities conspicuously placed in the yard, such as piles of stones, odd rocks, shells, pieces of statuary." Few amateurs can resist the temptation to trifle with this commandment. There immediately rises to our mind a certain attractive little home which had been planted by its owner with loving care and considerable taste. The property changed hands, and the new owner promptly commenced to "improve" the grounds. He placed piles of whitewashed stones where they would most offend the eye, he bordered the hitherto good looking walks with more of the same, he painted flower pots dark green with red stripes. He committed many other atrocities upon the person of that poor little place, until from a cosy, restful, homey home, it has been metamorphosed into a garish, guady affair resembling the front of a moving picture theatre or a circus wagon. The place for curiosities is in a museum,—not in a garden, and there are very few of us who possess taste enough to use statuary without making the garden look like a cemetery.

Key No. 7. "The place must be neat and well kept so that it may look as if the residents gave it loving care." This would seem to be almost a superfluous preachment, but too many of our gardens look as if we had planted them and then had figuratively slapped them on the back and told them they were all right now to travel "on their own." This kind of treatment of gardens is analagous to allowing our children to go about with buttonless and holey clothing and dirty hands and faces.

THE SPRING FLOWER SHOW

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Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

That last screech of mine missed a number and I was seriously contemplating offering my small property for sale cheap and leaving these unappreciative precincts, or assaulting the Editor,—the latter course I had abandoned in consideration of the difficulty of reaching his head, when the February issue appearing with my effort unabridged removed the cause of peevement and here I am again.

As I write the thrice welcome rain pours down as it has for three days and I am wondering who will claim the credit; I know I did not do it, but I have read the churches were putting up prayers and from my youth I have believed "The prayers of the righteous availeth much" and not knowing the prayers I cannot deny they may fit that specification, then it was threatened to bring Hatfield here and we all know what he did to us last time, which reminds of a mule I once worked which hated to work and would not bend his head to the bridle willingly, in fact it was necessary to seize an ear with a leather punch and haul. After both ears were too full of holes to hold the wind that mule would fairly hump to get inside that bridle whenever the punch clicked anywhere in his neighborhood. I trust you will see the connection—any way I have wanted to tell that mule story for a long time.

It is the rain that reveals the true selfishness of human nature; today the farmer is thinking of the benefit to his particular acres, the city officials about the run off into the reservoirs and the tourist is cussing because one day in fifty has proven bad for driving or golfing or wearing thin paper soled shoes. Perhaps rain is the weeping of the gods contemplating humanity.

I have my own complaint which is that this generous rain will compel me to go seriously to work in my garden when I had contemplated a season of loafing with the buck-passed to the city water system and the rain-god. The Press must be pleased it has already had a chance to use all kinds of adjectives in scare heads such as COPIOUS, BOUNTIFUL and GENEROUS and has a big reserve of its old faithful ASSURED. I smile when I think how much and how many it may ASSURE and recall the seasons when it assured crops for several times before harvest. That is what I call some press work, if at first you don't succeed try, try again.

This rain business is susceptible of being posed as a conundrum, When is an inch not an inch? It is possible to dispose our normal rainfall so that it has no cumulative effect except for publicity purposes, and so render half the amount as to give a fair crop. This season the rains till that of middle February were a mere aggravation and it is always safer to judge by the weeds than the rainfall figures.

Rains are great revealers—they show up the nails that have lain perdu for your tires all through the summer but I had hardly expected they would show the utter fraud of my latest purchase in raincoats. I always think I have to go out in the rain, whether the compulsion be real or imagined and equally surely I have gotten wet, so this year I journeyed to lower Fifth and asked for a coat such as stevedores and their kind wear when they ply their trade in weather, and was directed to a dreadful thing the color of a cholera morbus; it was sticky and heavy and smelt bad and the seller advised hanging it in a draft when not in use, the stock was kept hung in the bottom of an elevator shaft and yet the neighborhood plainly betrayed its presence. Foolishly I argued anything so completely offensive must be effective or it would not exist and I bought the abomination, took it home and hung it in the barn. Now comes this rain and holding my breath I put on the yellow devil and trusting in its shelter braved the raindrops. After half an hour while I visited all the drains and ditches that were quite able to take care of themselves I seemed to be getting unaccountably weary in fact I sagged, it was that—coat,—it caught the water like a sponge and gently sifted it through on my back and shoulders,—it never wasted a drop and two days afterwards it still weighs a ton and is sadly dripping slow drops while it smells and smells and smells. I thirst to catch the clerk who sold me that coat of all one offensive color and clamping its clammy folds tightly round his misrepresenting stummy while I play the hose on him. Before this last and worst experience I have tried the so-called raincoats that are disguised as a regular overcoat I believe they are called something that ends with bag or net or something of that kind, these start out with a deception and never go back on their beginning. Is there no balm in Gilead? the

Continued on page 8

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Things New and Old

By P. D. BARNHART

"Dilly Plant"

Who of the readers of The Garden can guess what this plant is?

I went to the Orange Show at San Bernardino last month, and there was a pretty woman who had seeds of the vegetable wonder on sale under the above name. Her story of the marvel of vegetable life appealed to that class of folks who want quick and lasting results, at small cost and little labor. The folly of expecting something from nothing in the Art of Gardening, should be apparent to thoughtful people, nevertheless there seems to be inherent in human nature a disposition to do as little as possible, and get as much as they can extract, either from nature, or their fellows, for doing of it.

It is a fact that where man does least, man is least and no gardener who is not willing to pay the price, which is hard work, need hope to succeed.

To get back to the Dilly plant seeds. She said that, planted in a bowl of water they would grow and bloom in two weeks and keep up the blooming business indefinitely. Can you beat it? You fellows who have planted seeds and watched them sprout, and send out the little seed leaves, then the true leaves, then grow a stem strong enough to prdouce flowers and fruit, a process of development which in some cases require many months, yes, even years, would you bite at a bait such as I have given? Yet this woman did a thriving trade, on the credulity of her fellows.

The common name of this aquatic, is "water chestnut" because the nuts are good to eat, if one cares to fish them out from the bottom of a pond or lake. It is also known as water caltrops. The proper name is Trapa; the one on sale at the show was Bicornis, for the reason that crooked curved horns grow from each side of the seed. Then, too, this vendor of wonders said there were red, white and blue varieties, which showed that she was intensely loyal to the Flag, even though she was not loyal to the truth about her wares.

As a matter of fact the flowers are white and inconspicious. It is the foliage which is attractive, and in China, where food in scarce, and labor cheap the seeds or nuts whichever you choose to call them, are gathered for food.

One of the old plants of the garden is Adenocarpus viscosus which is not as extensively grown as it deserves to be. An evergreen shrub, of the Leguminose family of plants, and much more beautiful than Genista canariesis for the reason that the branches are densely covered with the very small trifoliate foliage. It does not seed freely, yet enough are produced annually to get up a good stock if they are saved and planted. The flowers are golden colored, born in terminal spike six inches long.

One of the pretty things we grow is Lopezia albiflora and L. coronata. The first bears white flowers, the second rose colored, and while the individual blooms are very small, they are so numerous that they make a grand display during what we call winter—a misnomer for California—spring would be the proper name for our season from November to May; then summer the other months. It is a low, very low shrub, evergreen, and will stand the brightest sunlight. To the gardener who loves to grow things in pots there is nothing more satisfactory than this subject in four inch pots, and so dense that the pot cannot be seen and the plant a perfect bouquet when in full bloom. It belongs to the Onagraceae, or primrose family.

Both these plants are grown by Howard & Smith. A very remarkable vine is Thunbergia coccinea, also known as Hexacentris coccinea. The racemes of bloom are twelve to eighteen inches long, the ffowers; in shape and color are very like our native Mimulus cardinalis. It is a rampant grower and apparently without an enemy to sap the life out of it.

Rosa gigantea was introduced to this country about a quarter century ago, and only now are we learning about its merits. It is said to be the only species indigenous to the tropics. It is a prodigious grower. The foliage is a light green and never affected with mildew. The buds are a beautiful apricot color, and open out into a pearly white, single flower, four inches diameter. It is without odor, nevertheless it is desirable because of the spectacular display during our spring months.

RESULTS OF NATURE STUDY

At West Springfield, Mass., as a result of a nature study bulletin placed in the library of that city, the school children collected 135 varieties of wild flowers during this last summer.

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The Fruit of the Soil

By Fidella G. Woodcock.

The wheels of progress cover a large area of horticultural interests, and nature in our ideals of national expansion is suffering a great shock, as we are led to realize, by purely mechanical civilization in its onslaught for the crying need for resources as means of development in building material. Ancient mythology represented the natural principles of good and evil by the symbol of a charioteer driving a white and a black horse in span—the white one pulling eternally upward to the beautiful cloud realm of moral victory, the black one dragged down to the road of necessity and its gravitation toward evil circumstances. With all his lack of circumstance, the black horse had a hard battle in the race in trying to pull the earth in all its bondage into the realm of consecrated uses while the white one is satisfied with securing his own freedom and consequent enjoyment of cloudland.

Science has borne the stigma of being the black horse in the combat—of earth, earthy, but really good science serves the function of proper usefulness whether the horse is black or white. Life in its struggle for existence is the same for all, but the functions of its vary with race, sex, and equality.

The hard question remains, how can we maintain the highways for better utilitarian progress and still retain the ideals of nature? The soil with its forests and streams and hidden mines is the medium of natural energy, the bond between man and the infinite world.

The truths of science are but the true relations of material things, but they will not grow without a spiritual protectorate, and as far as we can see the mind of the world is very limited in its notions of the sublime necessity. If the man in the world could find his garden in perfect order when he comes into possession of it he would have little to do but work for the mental redemption of the woman in the case who hasn't learned the food value. The redemption of Eve is and is not the subject of scientific discussion though it is an old and new theme in eternal truth. Modern science is surely an illuminating agent of the greater soul that puts the world in harmony with the aims of creation; that is, getting together the right stuff in the brain tissues. The more mental fibre he can work into the ground operations the better will his garden grow. In a word, the farm labors are much reduced and the results more beautiful to behold in measuring material means for the results of efforts to fertilize.

When to supply and when to deprive is just a simple matter of observation of one's own judgment in the case, in forcing a hotbed into service for producing the species or the kinds we want. The education of the schools and universities teach on general principles what is best to do in most cases. Some minds respond to consciousness of these facts from natural intuition, but training the classes of instruction in common sense cultivating, is an equal opportunity for those who do not understand it without mental training.

So much is said and half realized on the subject of ideal gardening and planting practical sense in the little gardens of the mind that we are often surprised that our institutions of learning are not sending out any army of full fledged farmers, intensively educated. The formality of getting in and through and out of a school goes a good way on the road to learning, but the fruit of the soil is assuredly, after all, the faculty of filling the tissues with the ingredients to keep the moral forces from becoming starved out skeletons of life and motion. As it is, harmony between the person and the soil is the most desirable point in soil culture.

Protoplasm at its strongest is bathed in its solution of carbon that responds to sunlight more powerful than all the chemical elements, and the strength of the protoplasm in a measure forms its own cell tissues. What we take with the brain and body construct the working power, so in building up a system of plant culture that will endure, the soil and its fruits go to make a foundation for the sympathies for good or bad, in it we see the ever present truth that good choice is the determining issue that supports the personal faith in the highest good. The mind acts more easily when supported and stimulated in its course by perfect ferments and bodily reaction.

With us, gravitation is strongest in the earth, for here the currents of motion are slow vibrations and the electric radiators for stimulating rapid plant growth stir the soil to chemical combustion in less time than the slower forms of disintegrating fertilizer as a food source. So the building and warming of our physical anatomy are an obsession to the healing of the mind from the vagaries of disease, contact with natural currents and sympathies that interact between earth and atmosphere, between us and our surroundings open a way for the receiving of life-giving bacteria of plant, or animal organisms. In youth and in the flower of age the strength of the race whether in the symbol of the myth, the picture of allegory, or the hard fact of modern science, is the same throughout. The allied forces of created and uncreated may be interpreted as meaning the freedom to have and to hold his portion in the purposes of the greatest good.

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The March Vegetable Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

March and April are the two greatest planting and sowing months in the year, so that really the late bountiful rains have come in just the right time, more particularly for the person who has been planning more particularly for the spring garden.

Be sure and go over all your ground, whether it is already spaded or not, and break the crust, leaving a pretty fine surface, so as to conserve moisture.

Remember that rain is nature's irrigation and by far the most valuable and thorough we get, containing and precipitating as it does, valuable plant food from the air, and bringing that moist growing atmosphere so favorable to the growth of all plant life.

You can plant practically the whole list of vegetable seeds and plants unless your location is low and cold, and although a little early for melons, cucumbers and squash, you can just as well take a chance with them as there is always enough seed in a 5 or 10c packet for two or three plantings. If you set out tomato, pepper and egg plant protect them for a few days until they become rooted. You can easily do that by putting a cone made of newspaper round them. Try a few green globe artichoke plants, also Jerusalem artichoke roots, which make a palatable vegetable. Get out your asparagus bed and finish planting strawberries, rhubarb roots, etc.

It is important to keep in mind a proper rotation of crops, so as to get the best success with your vegetables and also the most out of your ground. The quickest vegetable to mature is the radish, so as fast as you use them for the table you can fill in the spaces with lettuce, cabbage, egg plant, peppers or tomatoes, etc., and the different crops, radishes and interplanted crop, can continue growing side by side until the first named is used. In the same way you can utilize land planted to onion sets by removing a few sets and intersetting with other vegetables. Different combinations of this sort can be worked out between quick maturing crops annd others to follow them. The gardener should not plant all of his radish, lettuce, spinach or other seed at once, but should make successive plantings at intervals of about two weeks. In this way the season for these vegetables will be lengthened indefinitely. Successive planting is possible also with beets, turnips, carrots, peas, beans, corn and many other vegetables.

In planting rotations of crops, certain general principles should be kept in mind. In type and character of growth the succeeding plant should differ as much as possible from the plant which it follows. This is both to avoid attack by insects and disease and to insure that the second crop shall be properly nourished. A good plan is not to have root plants, such as beets and carrots, nor plants of the same family, such as cabbage and cauliflower, or tomatoes and peppers follow each other. It is well to divide the plants into rooting crops, fruiting crops and foliage crops and have members of the different groups alternate.

The reason for this rotation is that each of these groups take up different plant foods. To plant one class continuously would exhaust your soil and your crop would be a failure.

Where manures are applied with regularity, rotation is not so absolutely essential, as the plant foods are replenished in the soils. Rotation, however, is the principal factor in maintaining the fertility of the soil.

The Rose

I will not have the maid Clytie,
Whose head is turned by the sun;
The tulip is a courtly queen,
Whom therefore I will shun;
The cowslip is a country girl,
The violet is a nun;
But I will woo the dainty rose,
The queen of every one.
The pea is but a wanton witch,
In too much haste to wed,
And clasps her ring on every hand;
The wolfsbane I should dread;
Nor will I seek the rose-mary,
That always mourns the dead;
But I will woo the dainty rose,
With her cheeks of tender red.
The lily is all in white like a saint,
And so is no mate for me;
The daisy's is tipped with a blush,
She is of such low degree;
Jasmine is sweet and has many loves;
And the broom's betrothed to the bee;
But I will plight with the dainty rose,
The fairest of all is she.

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The March Flower Garden

By MARY MATTHEWS

The planting list for this month will furnish you with a wealth of material for your garden, as most everything in the way of subtropical plants and shrubs can be put in the ground after the soaking rains that we have had in the last three days. It will be well to defer planting operations 'till the ground is in fit condition to work up well. In the meantime while waiting for this we can get numerous thrills by going through the garden and finding what the rains have revived, or rather brought to light, as many of our choice things, especially among the bulbs, were just lying in wait under the ground, for just such a rain as this to bring them through. Already I've discovered a bud on the little peacock Iris, where before the rain nothing was to be seen but two long strap-shaped leaves. This little Iris has aldays done well with me and gives its dainty little blooms each season without extra care. If you want shrubs and vines in your garden, now is the time to secure them. The list is endless of things that can be planted and made to bloom in this locality. Don't neglect the old and well tried favorites, but at the same time try some one at least of the newer things. An Arnold Arboretum bulletin gives a wonderful list of new things that are being tried out,—many of which will no doubt be seen here ere long and do well. I wish some one who had the space, time, and pocketbook would make here in San Diego a collection of every variety of one good thing to be had, say Philadelphus (mock orange) for instance. There are now about seventy kinds in cultivation, including hybrids, and the majority of them perhaps all would thrive well here. Coming down to smaller things, this is a good time to begin to work up a stock of the perennials for next season. From now on seeds of any of your favorites can be put in boxes and allowed to grow along slowly 'till next fall, when they can be put into the ground. Some may give a few blooms this season but all will bloom profusely next.

Who is growing the Transvaal daisy now; There are two new things in decorative plants among the hardy perennials that can be brought on from seed,—Artemisia cactiflora and Thalictrum dipterocarpum. Where you have small plants in the ground you will want to watch them carefully, as should be sun come out very warm after this rain many will be inclined to wilt and should have some slight shade—also protection from birds and insects. Where one has a number of new small things planted it seems like a lot of work to look after each one, but it pays. Some one has said that the Chinese are firm believers in the personal touch in the garden. They look after each plant individually and give it just what it needs.

Many soft-wooded plants can be started at this season from slips in boxes of moist loam and sand. If you have a favorable penstemon this is a very good way to work up a stock.

Keep putting in all the bulbs for summer blooming you can now—another lot of Gladiolus to succeed those planted last month. Tigridias are showy, but fugitive, still they keep coming—each day gives new blooms. Tuberoses also can go in now in a warm sunny spot, a sandy soil and lots of water. In the bulb line, if any one has any of the Antholyzas, formerly seen in all the old yards, they should hold on to them, as they have become very scarce, are not allowed to be imported, and bulb collectors elsewhere are reintroducing them. Up in the Mission Cliff Gardens there is a long border of them, which have been in bloom for weeks and are striking. This is the only good planting of them I've ever seen.

Take good care of anything you have coming on, now that you may want to exhibit at one or maybe both of the shows.

A Garden in Arcadia

Half-hidden by the forest flowers
In a cool, sequestered glen,
I hear the whisper of the wind
The drone of bees—and then—
A languor steals upon me
That seems flowing in the breeze,
And I quaff the spicy perfume
Of the pine and hemlock trees.
And I wonder, what can riches
Half so precious, give or make
As the solace of those moments
Down beside the woodland lake,
And as I retrace my footsteps
To the city's tawdry glare
Still I find the world—the old world
Vanity is sovereign there!

—Bronte A. Reynolds.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The February Meeting

The regular meeting of the Floral Association was held on February 17th at the home of Mrs. Nelson Barker. There were over 30 members present. Mr. Gorton opened the meeting by calling upon Mr. Hieatt to say a few words concerning the spring Rose Show. He dwelt upon the necessity of all of us bestowing special care upon our rose bushes, with a view of exhibiting at least one bloom of which we may be proud. Fertilize the roots and do not allow them to dry out. Mr. Hieatt invited the members to present cups for awards. The class, and the manner for which the award is to be made, is to be optional with the donor. It may be given outright, as an award for one season, or in order to become the possession of the exhibitor, it may be conditional to win it two years out of three.

Plans for the Bulb Show were discussed, but only a tentative date was set, and it was suggested by Miss Sessions that it be held in the court of the Francis Parker School. Some of the members advocated the first week in March, but others thought a later date would be preferable. It was decided that the choice of the time and place be left with the Show Committee. There are a number of interesting places in the vicinity of the Francis Parker School which the members and their friends could visit, were the Bulb Show to be held at the school.

Mr. Gorton, before the subject of the evening was introduced, spoke of the exchange department, and **invited** the members to advertise plants, seeds, bulbs, or cuttings which they would like to exchange and to mention their wants as well. The Association wishes to avoid interfering in any way with the sales of nurserymen. Miss Sessions was asked whether our exchange column, in her opinion, would in anyway curtail their sales, but she rather thought that enncouraging people to plant in this manner would assist the professionals.

It was moved and seconded that the common council, the Mayor, City Engineer, City Manager, and County Board of Supervisors, be extended an invitation to the Floral Association meeting, which is to be held this month at Mr. and Mrs. George Marston's residence. As the subject is to be tree planting, it is one in which all public officials should manifest an interest.

In a great many countries there are tree commissions, one commissioner for each supervisorial district. The commissioner may insist on uniformity in planting, he has the power to refuse permission to plant unsuitable trees and oversees proper trimming and protection. He has also power to prohibit removal or mutilation of trees where advisable.

Our President, who had the subject of the evening in charge, gave us a most instructive talk on "Plant Protection Quarantines and Control Measures." He told us of the attempts to eradicate the pests we already have and the means used to prevent the introduction of those we are not blessed with. The strict quarantine laws often seem unreasonable to us, and we, who are subject to them, often resent the limitations they impose, but now that we have been enlightened as to the dangers to our agricultural and horticultural industries were we lax in preventive measures, we realize how we are safeguarded by the laws to which we object. The members who were present, at least, will sympathize in the future with the trials and tribulations of our horticultural commissioner. We will no longer demur, but will willingly concur in any restrictions he may see fit to impose upon us. (Let me say here, that though he is also the Editor of our Magazine, he had nothing to do with the writing of this article).

Our California Laws of Inspection are considered as a working model in many other states. We take the lead in horticultural protective laws.

It was a matter of interest and surprise to the members present, to hear that the horticultural and agricultural industries of California, exclusive of live stock, amount to $523,000,000 annually, while those of our other three chief industries, namely(lumber, mineral and petroleum, total $237,000,000.

The Citrus Canker was spoken of as an example of the damage which may be wrought by pests. In the State of Florida it has destroyed over $3,000,000 worth of trees. Ten per cent of the bearing trees have been affected. This destructive disease can only be eradicated by burning the infected stock. Because of the existence of Citrus Canker in other states the only one from which stock may be imported is that of Arizona, as that state maintains a quarantine as strict as ours. The Mediterranean Fruit Fly is another major pest, which we are fortunate enough to have kept out of our borders. It has never been eradicated from a district into which it has been introduced. It destroys ornamental plants as well as fruit trees. Ripe and damaged bananas carry the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, therefore the United States maintains inspectors at this port from which they are shipped, as well as at the point of destination. Grape roots are excluded because of the Grape Phylloxera which causes deterioration and finally death of the vine.

The injurious insects, Mr. Gorton states, were of two classes, the biting insects—our friend the Rose Beetle is an example of this

kind—and those which obtain their nourishment by sucking the juices of the plant. These last are the soft bodied insects. The contact insecticides should be used to destroy the latter, such as the nicotine sprays or a kerosene emulsion; while a poison spray such as arsenate of lead should be applied to plants infested with the former. For scale insects the most effective treatment is fumigation.

We were shown specimens of potatoes affected with three diseases common to them in this part of the country. The Fusarium Wilt, which causes black streaks inside the potato, the common scab, the name of which is descriptive of its appearance, and Rhizoctonia, which results in small dark excrescences on the outer skin. The Eel worm or Nematode and the Tuber Moth, the larva of which eats its way into the potato are probably two of the most serious potato pests.

We should all have liked to be told of a miraculous slug and snail destroyer by our informed, but this joy was denied us. Mr. Gorton became suddenly less communicative when questioned concerning these voracious animals, with which we are all familiar. Hand picking seems to be the accepted method of keeping them from devouring the entire garden, but it is far more pleasant to sit by the fireside with an interesting book than to go forth after dark armed with a flash light and a can in which to drop the slimy insects.

Depredations in our gardens are not caused exclusively by members of the lower strata of life. The feathered pests are sometimes our greatest problem, as we do not mind stamping upon a snail or dropping a bit of nicotine upon an aphis, but our phychology is disturbed when the birds devour our nicely growing peas or consume the entire loquat crop.

We do wish these creatures would limit themselves to satisfying our soul's longing for music and inspiring us with beauty of their plumage, and leave our kitchen gardens alone.

LEDA KLAUBER, Secretary.

SPECIAL OFFER

The "Garden" invites you to "take it on trial" for three months for the nominal price of .25c. Merely fill out coupon, detach, and mail, with this amount to the California Garden, Point Loma, California. This offer is for a limited period only.

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Name .....

Address .....

Pickings and Peckings

Continued from page 2

only coat I have not tried is a coat of rubber paint and I doubt if that would stick when the gooseflesh started.

It is the same story with rubber boots, I lost faith in them in my duck hunting days in the swamps of Orange County, in a moment of excitement one is sure to plunge into a hole and effectively fill those boots and the ensuing discomfort is a thing that would make a Far East Refugee glad he had no footgear. Every pair of gum boots sooner or later, usually sooner, betrays the confidence of their wearer. They are put out of commission by a pin hole,—all that vast expanse of rubber rendered worse than useless by a pin hole. Then if they are water tight consider their weight and the fact that that to be put on they must be steen sizes too large so that the feet in an effort to find a foothold in their extensive soles get cramps and curl with protest. I remember after two trials with the gums on those hunting expeditions I adopted the native habit of an old pair of pants and shoes—both so holey that if the water could get in it could also get out. Costumed thus one boldly went anywhere after the first cold plunge and navigating through tules in two feet of water soon circulated the blood. But I am getting old, I fear wet feet and hate the drip of the cold raindrop down my neck especially when unexpected and I ask that some inventive genius get up a watertight suit that stays watertight and is not a load to pack around. You ask what is the matter with an umbrella I answer everything but the name which sounds well and at that means a shade rather than a roof. I have a daughter who fain would fend me from the elements and her favorite weapon (I use the term advisedly) is an umbrella. It is absolutely unbelievable how regularly the drip finds my sensitive neck or the stays hook my ear or nose at least take off my hat and she is really trying to look after Daddy. I could not appreciate her good intentions if I had not myself tried to hold an umbrella over her mother to her satisfaction without making a martyr of myself. No! I state without fear of successful contradiction that the umbrella is the most selfish weapon of offense I have met.

Mighty little about garden in this, Why of course,—is it not raining?

The Science and Industry department of the Los Angeles Public Library publishes an excellent bibliography of standard books and pamphlets on Horticulture and related subjects which may be obtained upon application.

Economic Uses of Palms

By P. D. Barnhart

We people of the state of California grow palms for ornament only. In the lands of their nativity, they are utilized for all sorts of economic purposes. In this article I shall point out the utility of many species which grow to perfection, in the hot, dry interior valley, as well as those which flourish in the cooler and more humid coastal regions of the state.

Since one of the most useful of this tribe is indigenous to the state, it will be well to begin with it.

Scientific chaps, who delight in bestowing names on all members of the vegetable kingdom, have been pleased to bestow on this subject four, which the curious minded reader may look for himself. I shall use the one which Bailey uses in his Standard Encyclopedia of Horticulture; Washingtonia filifera.

There is a mistaken idea among gardeners that because this palm is found wild in the Coachella Valley where the temperature becomes high during the summer months, that it is a strictly desert plant, capable of growwith little or no water. As a matter of fact where it is found, springs and even streams abound, and while the air is dry, the roots revel in water and in moisture.

There is no necessity of describing the Palm, since it is found everywhere in the state, and everybody is familiar with it, nevertheless few people realize how useful it may be to the economically inclined home maker.

First, then, the foliage. Every one knows that the leaves live but a year, then turn brown and droop, swathing the trunk if left grow in a natural way. This is seldom done. They are cut off and as a rule burned, to get them out of the way. If used for roofing and properly put on at an angle of forty-five degrees, they will last a half century, which is as long as good Redwood shingles will last, and that is about as long as the average man and woman in these days will permit any building to remain. We have no reverence for, neither any appreciation of grand old things of a bygone day. If we had, we would not permit the fine old Mission buildings of the pioneers of this state to fall into decay. Trunks of this palm if sawn into boards two inches thick, will endure for a generation, if used in the construction of small building, and that, too, without a fissure, even without a coat of paint.

If the trunks are laid in the shade of buildings, or of trees, and holes cut in the sides, make an ideal place in which to grow ferns and the dwarf fibrous rooted Begonias. Being an endogenous plant, the heart is soft and pithy, an ideal material for growing such things, when water is given them. Such a trunk will last for several years under such conditions, before decaying away.

Phoenix canariensis is another palm, the trunk of which is the same in texture as Washingtonia and may be used for the same purposes. The foliage of feather leaved palms is also used for roofing in the tropics where rains are torrential and the natives want a dry place in which to sleep. The fruit stalk of this palm is as tough as whale bone, with the tensile strength of steel, and when shredded and made into brushes and brooms they are very serviceable. Used in furniture making, this material is practically indestructable. Whether the seeds would be of any value for stock feed, if pulverized, is yet to be determined. Certain it is, the seeds of its first cousin, the Date Palm, are used for food for camels. Then, too, the pollen of the male flowers is the finest sort of talcum powder, not equaled by the best artificial stuff on the market. (Then we grow to perfection the Sugar Palm of South America). From this species molasses and sugar is made from the sap in the same manner that sugar is made from the sap of Maple Trees, and in Peru and Chile, where it is indigenous, the sweets it yields is a staple article of commerce. There is no species of this tribe of plant which is so tenacious of life as this one. A number of years ago an enterprising real estate firm bought considerable acreage of a plant enthusiast in Hollywood, and having no regard for the rare things growing thereon, proceeded to cut and grub everything off, as is the custom of real estate men, never thinking that the fine specimens of plant life would be a valuable asset to lovers of the rare and the beautiful, who were looking for homesites.

Among the trees was a fine specimen of Jubaea spectabilis. It was an easier job to grub it out than to cut it down, so the roots were cut close and the trunk dragged out of the way. There it lay exposed to the summer sun and the dry atmosphere for six months. The man who planted it years before, finally mustered up courage to beg the remains of the noble tree, and had the courage to drag it home, and, with the aid of a derrick, replanted it in the hope that it might yet live.

His dream came true, and today that palm is a sturdy specimen of its kind.

I prophesy that the day will come in the history of California that the desert and the waste place thereof will become profitable sugar producing sections, where now only "greasewood" and sage-brush abound, because

of the lack of water to grow deciduous and citrus fruits.

The fruit of this palm is as large as walnuts, and since it belongs to the cocoanut family of the tribe, they, too, may be of some value for food if roasted.

There are some species of the Cocos palm family which flourishes wonderfully well in the coastal sections of the state, yet they are not appreciated for their economic value. There have been bunches of fruit exhibited at flower shows which weighed 110 pounds each, and the fruits, which are about the size of pigeon eggs, have a yellow or red pulp, according to the variety or the species, I am not sure which—but no matter about that, which has a pleasant, sweet, and slightly acid taste.

For making fruit syrup or jelly it is not surpassed by any other fruit grown in this state. To be sure you will want to know the name of this world beater for jelly making. Yes, that is the enigma yet to be solved. Intellectual high brows disagree, therefore the common herd are satisfied to know it as Cocos australis, a native of Paraguay.

No use to argue the point about the identity of the different types of this palm, which is found in nearly every yard and garden of this Southland. It would only start a fight, and the Book says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

I have observed that the men who know the least are the most intolerant of other folks' opinions, and cling the most tenaciously to what little they do know. It is the well informed man or woman who knows that there is a possibility that there are some things they do not know, and are always anxious to learn, so in this case, the identity of these South American Cocos palms is in great confusion, nevertheless it is Cocos Australis for me! The species with gracefully recurved, stiff leaves, the pinnea a light stell, metalic green the trunks short, and stout, the fruit while young, and for jelly making equal to currants, for which we pay twenty cents a pound, and let the palm fruit go to waste. A prodigal people we are.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held Tuesday evening, March 16th, at 8:00 o'clock, at the home of Mr. Geo. Marston, 3525 Seventh St.

This is to be a special meeting on "Street Planting and Yard Beautification," and invitations are to be extended to interested city and county officials to be present. Invite your friends to attend this meeting and help plan for a more beautiful San Diego.

Remember there are to be *two* shows—the Spring Show and the Bulb Show.

An Ant-idote

By E. S. Ryan

Anthology is derived from anthous, a flower; and logos, a discourse. As there is only a breath—i. e. an aspirate—between anthology and ant-ology, the following experience should not be an alien in a floral magazine.

When we moved into this old house it might well have been named "Ant Castle." Those creatures had preempted the premises, welcomed us unanimously, and refused to be evicted in spite of the trial of as many as ten different "sure cure and ant-exterminators." They patrolled the whole house night and day, and raided everything edible that was not hermetically sealed or marooned on an inaccessible island. They were often seen perusing the latest magazines, no doubt looking over the advertisements to see what was worth looting.

Once I discovered a pale yellow streak reaching down from the top of a high cupboard, across the kitchen floor, and up the wall to an opposite window. It was made of ants carrying off the cream of wheat. Those ants must have been twenty-five feet long! How many I did not pause to count, but rushed for a kerosene swab. When the swabbing ceased I was sure I had slain my tens of thousands. Although such affrays lent an element of excitement to the monotony of housework I often longed for a quieter life.

One spring day if a stranger had watched the Man o' the House he might have thought him a poor engine oiler gone astray in the head. Clad in overalls that reeked of the garage, topped with hat of like vintage, oil can in hand, he meandered over the yard, up the path through the alley, down the driveway and even into the road, often stooping to put oil on the ground. Had the dubitations of his auto so distraught him that he thought the old dry earth needed lubricating? His household accustomed to variety in his vagaries, were not alarmed, they simply asked, "What is he up to now?"

His oil can contained distillate and crude oil, half and half. Wherever he saw ants, on the march or entrenched, he gave them a volley from his machine gun. All who did not instantly turn up their toes turned them out and ran away, like the Mother Goose man, fourteen miles in fifteen days and never looked behind them. Quite unlike Tabby and the tourist they never came back. Since that day, whenever a formic invasion approaches, the same anti-ant antics are promptly performed. For three years not an ant of the Solomon sort has been seen in the house; neither is the English ivy infested with "ant-cows" as it used to be.

Go for the ant, thou sluggard, crude oil her ways and be wise.

Our Flower Service to Camp Kearny

On February 18th, 1918, the Floral Association appointed a committee to take charge of assembling and sending flowers to the base hospital at Camp Kearny. This same committee has remained in charge of the work until the service was temporarily discontinued on Jan. 28th, 1920 (the occasion of General Pershing's visit to San Diego and the Camp.)

For a few weeks the State Society headquarters was used for receiving and packing the flowers, but on March 14th the use of the San Diego and Arizona ticket office at Third and Broadway was secured, and remained as the receiving station for the remainder of the period of nearly two years that the work was carried on. During this time the management of the San Diego and Arizona Railroad has extended many courtesies for the furtherance of the work.

The members of the Floral Association, the Superintendent of City Parks, a number of the San Diego florists and the public in general have taken an active interest in assuring a plentiful supply of flowers to be sent to the camp each Thursday.

At first the matter of transportation of the flowers to Camp Kearny was attended to by a chaplain of the Camp—himself a flower lover—who came in each week for the boxes and distributed their contents amongst the sick soldiers. Later the Red Cross took charge of calling at the receiving station for the flowers and distributing them. From time to time the committee would make up small bouquets of fragrant flowers for the invalid men to hold in their hands.

Many grateful notes were received from the sick men telling of the pleasure that was given them in this way and how they looked forward to each Thursday, "Flower Day".

During the first year the supply of flowers was abundant—as many as 150 suit boxes being sent on a single day. Not less than ten such boxes were sent on any occasion.

An especial effort was put forth on special occasions such as Easter, Mayj Day, etc. On Thanksgiving, 1918, 44 boxes were sent, containing principally beautifully berried sprays from the city park, and on Christmas of the same year 197 boxes of poinsettias (our California Christmas Flower) and other flowers made glad the hearts of the sick soldiers.

In the spring of 1919 great quantities of bulbs, plants, etc., were sent out to assist the men in the flower gardens which they were planting throughout the camp. Jellies, jams, vases, baskets and magazines also found there way to the base hospital on "Flower Day".

When the Red Cross house was built, flowers were sent to assist in making pleasant the period of convalescence for the men.

During the slightly less than two years that the collection and distribution of flowers was carried on, a total of 2,473 suit cases was sent to the camp, 1,357 boxes in 1918 and 1,116 boxes in 1919. Besides this quantity 32 very large boxes were sent to the men of the fleet during the fleet celebration week in August, 1919. Several letters of appreciation were received from officers and men. The boxes for packing the flowers were furnished by San Diego merchants.

The Maid of the Mist

The opening up of the territory in the vicinity of Victoria Falls in Rhodesia has reculted, according to the Christian Science Monitor, in the discovery of a wild form of gladiolus which under cultivation seems to retain all of its rare beauty and other desirable characteristics.

The element of romance enters into the naming of this type. In this part of Africa, made famous by Livingstone, the Zambesi suddenly changes from a smooth, placid stream of about one mile in width, and makes a drop of nearly four hundred feet into a gorge, the force of the fall causing pillars of misty spray to rise up like smoke above the forest. It was in a part of the forest which is constantly drenched by the spray from the falls that this gladiolus was found. As this type so closely resembled G. primulinus, botanical experts ruled that it could not be given a distinct scientific name as a species, but the newly discovered form was such a valuable addition to the sorts now in cultivation it was deemed worthy of a distinct variety name, and was accordingly named the "Maid of the Mist".

The new gladiolus is described as being of a beautifully clear yellow color, and unique in arrangement of petals. Its value is fur-their enhanced by the fact that it has been the progenitor of a number of attractive hybrids of various colors.

Ants—Snails

Ant season is here. They will increase in number and soon be in your house. Let us relieve you of the worry of previous years,—not by the use of a temporary repellent, but by scientific means of control.

Let us call and explain.

We have a snail trap that works, too. If you have other pests let us know.

ROBERTS COMPANY

3684 Arizona St., San Diego.

Phone, Hillcrest 2393

The California Garden

G. R. Gorton, Editor
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Elite Printing Co. 945 7th St., San Diego

Floral Association Meetings

The Floral Association meets regularly on the third Tuesday evening of each month at the homes mentioned below.

All persons interested in gardening are welcome at these meetings.

March—Mrs. Geo. Marston, 3525 Seventh street. Subject: "Street Planting and Yard Beautification."

April—Mrs. L. A. Jones, 4380 Valle Vista. Subject: "Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Zinnias, Marigolds.

May—Mrs. Ernest White, 2100 Second street. Subject: "Lathhouses."

June—Annual meeting.

July—Mrs. C. F. Naylor, 3520 Oregon street. Subject: "Cacti and Other Succulents."

August—Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 3535 First street. Subject: "California Wild Flowers."

The Floral Association invites the members to exhibit specimens of interesting or beautiful cut flowers at the San Diego Public Library. Space is to be devoted permanently to exhibits of this sort from individual members of the association, with the idea of displaying whatever flowers are blooming in their gardens at different times of the year. The names of the flowers, and if desired, the name of the contributor will be attached to the specimens. Miss Van Waggenen, on the second floor of the Library, will be in charge of the exhibit and will be glad to receive them at any time.

The Query Corner

QUERY CORNER

Q. Is the Egyptian lotus a water lily?

A. The so called Egyptian lotus is an aquatic, but is not, strictly speaking a water lily. Most of the water lilies are Nymphaeas, species, whereas the lotus are Nelumbiums.

Q. What is the remedy for pear blight?

A. The only control for pear blight, which by the way, attacks not only pear but apple, quince and loquat trees, consists of pruning the infected twig—if the blight is still in that form—including also several inches of the sound wood, sterilizing both the cuts and tools by swabbing with Mercury Bichloride, (Corrosive sublimate) solution, prepared by dissolving one 7.3 grain tablet in one pint of water. Corrosive sublimate may be obtained at any drug store. It is a very powerful poison, and care should be taken to keep it from children and irresponsible persons.

Q. What can be done to prepare adobe soil for easier cultivation?

A. Add sand, strawy stable manure, lime or plaster etc. to furnish humus. Do not when soil is too wet.

Plant Exchange

LEONOTIS. Mrs. M. A. Greer, 2972 First St., San Diego has a quantity of Leonotis (Lion's Tail) seedlings to dispose of. Telephone: Hillcrest 1550-J.

Would like to exchange 2 young Himalaya Blackberries for 3 or 4 Foxglove plants, or a few white or yellow "Mum" plants. W. H. C. Lawrence, 3036 L street.

Bulb Show

The Bulb Show will be held during the latter part of this month. The exact date and place of the show will be announced in the daily papers. If you have bulbous flowers—no matter how few—to exhibit, you are requested to communicate with Mr. Hieatt, Chairman of the Show Committee. Telephone Hillcrest 836, at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Advertiser

The California Garden is especially valuable as a medium for class advertising. It reaches just the people to whom you desire to talk about your line of plants, insecticides, garden tools, garden furniture, pots, vases, hanging baskets, garden publications and garden things generally. Think over your stock and see what you have that the gardening public can use. The Garden is the only magazine that can serve you in this way.

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